United Nations TCDC/12/L.3

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.: Limited
7 February 2001

Original: English

High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
Twelfth session
New York, 29 May-1 June 2001

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Administrator

1. By its resolution 54/226 of 22 December 1999, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on its eleventh session,[1] and stressed the need to take appropriate measures to ensure the necessary level of attendance of all Member States in the meeting of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, including through discussions of country experiences at the field level, in terms of progress achieved, problems encountered and lessons learned in the implementation of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

2. By its resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into programmes and projects, and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and requested the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries activities. The Assembly also noted with satisfaction the broad-based support for technical cooperation among developing countries expressed by Member States at the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[2] as well as the recommendations on strengthening the integration of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/226/Add.4).

3. By its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the High-level Committee, at its ninth session from 30 May to 2 June 1995, to

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include in its agenda an item entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries".

4. By its resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the Committee on its ninth session,[3] including the recommendations and decisions contained therein, and reiterated the continued validity of all the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the importance of technical cooperation among developing countries. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3), which, among other things, called for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries.

5. In its resolution 52/205, the General Assembly called upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding. It urged the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to make concerted and vigorous efforts to mainstream the implementation of modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries by giving them full consideration in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects in their operational activities, and requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, to incorporate into his report for the triennial policy review of operational activities for development an assessment and recommendations aimed at further strengthening the integration of the modalities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries into the operational activities of the United Nations system. The Assembly also decided to hold a one-day commemorative meeting at the beginning of its fifty-third session to mark the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and to that effect requested the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in its capacity as substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee, to be responsible for the preparation and organization of the commemorative meeting.

6. By its resolution 52/205, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on its tenth session[4] and its decision 10/1 A, which, inter alia, introduced a new format and working methods to make the debate of the Committee more interactive and to enable a more concrete outcome of its deliberations.

7. The eleventh session of the High-level Committee, held in May 1999, was the first meeting at which the new format and working methods of the High-level Committee were introduced. The twelfth session of the High-level Committee will follow the same format and working methods, which include, inter alia, the following:

(a) A half-day organizational meeting to be held not later than three weeks before the biennial session of the High-level Committee. The organizational meeting will elect the Bureau of the High-level Committee and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work;

(b) The duration of the general debate on items 2, 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda of the twelfth session of the High-level Committee (TCDC/12/L.2) will be limited to three plenary meetings and will therefore conclude at the end of the morning meeting of the second day of the biennial session:

(i) A list of speakers will be opened at United Nations Development Programme headquarters, Division for United Nations Affairs (fax: (212) 906-5776, tel: (212) 906-5744) on Wednesday, 9 May 2001, and closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 May 2001;

(ii) In accordance with the new working methods of the High-level Committee, statements in the general debate will be limited to 8 minutes for representatives of Member States and 6 minutes for other participants. In order to ensure that this limit is respected, the President will switch on the red light when the time limit is exceeded;

(iii) In order to save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations wishing to have statements circulated to all participants are requested to provide 300 copies to the secretariat, which will arrange for their circulation in the language or languages received;

(c) In order to make the debate interactive, the President will, from time to time, request the Director to respond, as appropriate, to observations and suggestions made by delegations during the debate and thereafter invite comments from the floor either on the Director's response or on the issues raised in the statements of respective delegations;

(d) An additional feature of the High-level Committee's deliberations is a thematic discussion, including presentations of country experiences or case studies on the selected theme, designed to stimulate interactive exchanges among delegations and between delegations and the secretariat. The theme for the twelfth session of the Committee is entitled "The role of technical cooperation among developing countries in science and technology for development". The recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion will also be incorporated in the report of the Committee and, as appropriate, reflected in its decisions;

(e) The biennial session will be scheduled for a duration of four days prior to the annual session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. In conformity with the arrangements set out above, the general debate will be conducted in plenary meetings on 29 and 30 May 2001;

(f) In accordance with the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet as of the third working day of the session to elaborate draft decisions and recommendations. Thus, only one simultaneous meeting is required during the Committee's session.

8. The annex to the present note contains a tentative programme of work for the session. The Committee may wish to decide that, once the general debate and the thematic discussion in plenary meetings are concluded, and if sufficient meeting

time remains, the Working Group be convened immediately thereafter, thereby ensuring full utilization of the available conference services.

9. All meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In view of the limited time and services at the Committee's disposal, it is important that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services, and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the part of rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1), which stipulates that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating are present.

10. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would serve as its Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Based on previous practice and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 of 14 December 1978 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, it is urged that the regional groups start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts well in advance of the organizational meeting with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the Committee to be elected by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for secret balloting.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39).

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39).

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/52/39).

Annex

Tentative schedule of work

A. Plenary meetings

Tuesday 29 May 2001		*Wednesday 30 May 2001*		*Thursday 31 May 2001*		*Friday 1 June 2001*	
a.m.	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*
Opening of the session (item 1)	Items 2, 3 and 4 (continued)	Items 2, 3 and 4 (concluded)	Thematic discussion (including presentations of country experiences) on the theme "The role of technical cooperation among developing countries in science and technology for development" (item 5)	Item 5 (concluded)			Adoption of report of the Working Group (item 6)
General debate and review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee (item 2)				Other matters (item 8)			Approval of provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee (item 7)
Progress made in the implementation of new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) (item 3)			Other matters (item 8)				Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee (item 9)
Consideration of reports of the Administrator:							
(a) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning TCDC;							
(b) Management and use of the Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation;							
(c) Organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC (item 4)							

B. Working Group

Tuesday 29 May 2001		*Wednesday 30 May 2001*		*Thursday 31 May 2001*		*Friday 1 June 2001*	
a.m.	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*
-	-	-	-	Election of Rapporteur	Items 2, 3 and 4 (continued)	Items 2, 3 and 4 (concluded)	-
				Organization of work	Draft decision	Approval of all draft decisions	-
				Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee (item 2)			
				Progress made in the implementation of new directions strategy for TCDC (item 3)			
				Consideration of reports of the Administrator (item 4)			
				Draft decision			